



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

July 2020



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

Important:

Please sign up to
receive updates on the
latest road construction
in town.

[Subscribe to
Notifications](#)



Sign up for Westford's
new Emergency
Notification service:
[Smart 911](#)

Fill out your 2020 Census
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Respond online at

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Shape
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United States
Census
2020

WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
**BEST
PLACES
TO LIVE
IN AMERICA**

MONEY MAGAZINE, 2013

NO. 11

Watch
Meetings Online

westford CAT
community access television

www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Despite challenges faced due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our first outdoor Annual Town Meeting on June 20th was deemed a success. We were able to effectively conduct the meeting while keeping everyone safe during the process. You may find the results of the meeting on our town's website at the following link: [2020 Annual Town Meeting Results](#).

Thank you to Patty Dubey, our Town Clerk, and her staff for holding a successful Town Election on June 30th and congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected officials. To view the official election results, you may click the following link: [Annual Town Election Official Results](#).

At our Town Meeting, the Select Board announced the statement from Westford's Leadership to express to the community our shared outrage related to George Floyd's death, and our commitment to take appropriate actions to make Westford a safe space for people of color, and make Westford a welcoming community and a safe environment for all. The statement may be found at the following link: [Statement from Westford Leadership Relative to George Floyd's Death](#). The Select Board continued the discussion at their latest meeting concerning their commitment to and potential actions to address racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and hatred. Select Board Member Clay briefly recapped the Virtual Community Forum with the Westford Police Department which took place on July 7th. Since then, we have received over 100 questions relative to this topic. After much discussion, the board decided to create a group known as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group. More information relative to this new group can be found at the link here: [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group](#). The Select Board will determine a mission for this group at their next meeting and has asked if anyone in the community has any suggestions, to please reach out to the board via email. Anyone who may be interested in becoming a member may fill out a Citizen Activity Form at the following link: [Citizen Activity Form Application](#).

The Town and School Safety Task Force is seeking additional citizens to add diversity to the Task Force in order to broaden our discussion. At the Select Board's last meeting, they approved a request from the Town and School Safety Task Force to increase the group's membership to add 5 residents at large, to the already established 10-member group. If you are interested in serving on this task force, please visit the town's website to fill out a Citizen Activity Form: [Citizen Activity Form Application](#).

Recently the board received a request from the India Association of Greater Boston to hoist the Indian Flag on Town Common on Saturday, August 15, 2020 in celebration of Indian Independence Day. Following this request, the board was contacted by Westford Remembers Memorial Fund to consider accepting a donation of two flagpoles to be installed in front of the Town Hall or J.V. Fletcher Library. Ultimately it was voted 3-1-1 (Kost opposed, Tonakarn-Nguyen abstained) to allow two temporary flag poles on Town Common to celebrate Indian Independence Day, specifically permitting a United States flag on one pole, and the Indian Flag on the second pole during the event on August 15. The board intends to begin working on a Town Flag Policy and continue the discussion of accepting the new flagpole donation.

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WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

On June 23rd, the 35 Town Farm Task Force requested the board to accept the following recommendations:

1. Construction of a new Fire Training Facility at 60 Forge Village Road, parcel # 020 0043 0000
2. Approve MOU between the Fire Department and the Board of Water Commissioners
3. Approve demolishing the School Department barn and the Fire Department shed at 35 Town Farm Road
4. Accept the lot map to extend the boundaries at 35 Town Farm Road from 0.68 to 1.68 acres +/-
5. Approve establishing a historic preservation restriction on the Town Farm building
6. Support the creation of a RFP for affordable senior housing and a new home for the Westford Food Pantry at 35 Town Farm Road

This was approved with an amendment to place a historic preservation restriction request in the Request for Proposals. At the board's last meeting, an updated Memorandum of Agreement between the Select Board, Board of Water Commissioners, and Fire Department was presented and approved.

As our stormwater fee bills will be sent to residents this fall, bill adjustments may be necessary to correct or update stormwater related criteria in our town's GIS system. If you find a discrepancy, applications for bill adjustments may be submitted to the Engineering Department. To assist with this process, a Stormwater Fee Appeals Panel was created, made up by a member of the Select Board, Planning Board, and a Water Commissioner. The purpose of this panel is to hear the Engineering Department's credit appeals and adjust application decisions.

Please join me in congratulating Steve Cronin, former Water Superintendent, on his promotion to Director of Public Works, and Larry Panaro on his promotion from the Water Department's Business Manager to Public Work's Business Manager.

After 32 years of service to our town, Mary Blane, the Highway Department's Office Manager, has recently retired. Thank you to Mary for all she has done for Westford, and congratulations on her retirement from municipal service.

The board and I also recognized Hajo Koester, Paul Davies, and Phil McGee for a combined 126 years of service to our town. Hajo served on multiple boards and committees, as an election officer, and most recently the J.V. Fletcher Library Board of Trustees. Paul also served on multiple boards and committees, and most recently the Permanent Town Building Committee. Phil served as a Town Registrar for over 25 years.

As a reminder, The Roudenbush Community Center, Inc. is hosting this year's Farmers Market on the Town Common on Tuesdays from 2:30 PM – 6:30 PM through the end of August. If you are interested in participating as a market vendor, please contact Avery Adam at aadam@roudenbush.org or call (978) 496-1707.

For important information on COVID-19, including resident services, the latest town department information, CDC guidance, testing sites in Massachusetts, daily updates, and more, please visit our town's website at westfordma.gov/COVID-19.

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There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 12 North Main Street Task Force, 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Board of Assessors, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group, Dog Park Task Force, Election Officer, Energy Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Nashoba Valley Technical High School District Committee, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Town and School Safety Task Force, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

Would you like more detailed information on the Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Select Board Documents](#) & [Select Board Meeting Videos](#).

I hope you are enjoying your summer.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager



*Piano pickup & delivery to East Boston Camps with
a Piano Player!*

Courtesy of Westford Highway Department



July at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Curbside During Covid – Evening Hours Coming July 13! : Please place your Westford selections on hold through the online catalog. You will be notified when your order is ready for pick up and may come any time during our pick up hours. **Curbside Pickup is available Monday-Friday from 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m. Beginning July 13, we will add evening hours from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Monday - Thursday!** Please do not come until you receive a notification that your order is ready. When you arrive, please call 978-399-2300 (due to heavy call usage, we have updated the number to one that rings at multiple desks) and a masked gloved staff member will place your order under the rear portico. We also ask that patrons arrive masked. **If you have questions or need assistance placing your holds, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov.**

“Book the Browsing Tent” Coming July 13! : Are you looking for new titles for you and/or your family? Do you miss browsing the stacks of the Library? Although our main building isn't open to the public yet, our browsing tent will open the week of July 13! Look for the form on our website and submit it to schedule a time to come and browse the selections personally picked for you by our staff. The form will inquire about your reading tastes or you can simply have us “surprise you” with some staff recommendations. We will also offer “Book Bundles” for children and adults. Choose a category and we will supply with a “bundle” of books. One of our Library staff will meet you in the tent with personally curated titles just for you! Check the website for the form, submit it, and then a staff member will reach out to schedule your appointed time. Fifteen minute appointments will be available for individuals and thirty minute appointments for families. To comply with Covid-19 safety re-opening guidelines, only one individual or one family will be scheduled at a time in the tent. This service will be available Monday – Friday from 10-4. Weekend hours will be added the week of July 27. We can't wait to see you under the tent! Per Governor Baker, masks are required and sanitizer will be provided.

“Laptop Loan on the Lawn” Coming July 13! : Need to check your email or do some research? Perhaps you just want to spend some time catching up with friends and family on social media. Starting the week of July 13, you will be able to book up to thirty minutes on a laptop under a tent on our back lawn. Simply fill out the form on our website and a member of our Information Services staff will contact you to schedule a time. This service will be available Monday – Friday from 10-4. Weekend hours will be added the week of July 27. We can't wait to see you under the tent! Per Governor Baker, masks are required and sanitizer will be provided.

Item Returns: The rear book drop is open for returns. We ask that you wear a mask and gloves when returning your items. Returned items will be quarantined on carts for one week before they are checked in and removed from your account.

Extended Due Dates: All items checked out before quarantine have an extended due date of **July 31**.

All of our programs are generously funded by the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library.

Job Seekers Virtual Meeting: Join us every Wednesday from 3-4:30 p.m. to explore a numerous variety of job and employment topics. To attend a WJS Meeting, please email Dina Kanabar at dkanabar@westfordma.gov. Attendees will receive a link to access the Zoom Meeting via email. Weekly topics may be found on our [job seekers web page](#).

Virtual Teen and Tween Writer's Club: Tues., July 14, 21, and 28 at 1 p.m. Do you like writing? How about drawing? Do you want to meet other people, learn new techniques, and talk ideas? At Writer's Club we will hang out every week via the Library's secure Zoom account. Each week will feature a theme such as: Short Stories, Journaling, Poetry, Zine Making, Comics, and more! [Registration required](#). Grades 5 and up.

Virtual Teen and Tween Meal in a Mug: Thu., July 16 at 1 p.m. First, we learn to make a Personal Pizza in the microwave in just 5 minutes! Then we follow it up with a gooey chocolate cookie that's easy as...pie! Ingredients list will be available when you [register for the event](#). Grades 5 and up.

Outdoor Family Concert with Rolie Polie Guacamole Band: Thu., July 16 at 6:30 p.m. LIVE, DRIVE IN. Rolie Polie Guacamole Band is coming ALL THE WAY FROM BROOKLYN N.Y! Drive-in to our parking lot and tune your AM radio to 1610 – WJVF Radio Still Serving You!. Wear your PJs and pack some snacks and enjoy the show from your (hopefully) air conditioned vehicle! Space is limited to the first 50 cars (that is all we have for parking spaces!!!).

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July at the J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)

Virtual Ukulele Strum Along: Sat., July 18 at 2 p.m. Julie Stepanek returns for another strum along, this time on Zoom! Focusing on 2 and 3 chord songs, this program is for the beginner ukulele player who wants to practice and play music with others. Open to adults and teens. FREE! Please note this program is online, so participants must have their own ukuleles. For details, email Sarah Regan at sregan@westfordma.gov.

Virtual visit with the **REAL Mother Goose, Wed., July 22.** Video link will be posted on our Events calendar. Kids of all ages will enjoy this familiar face for a virtual program of songs and stories.

Virtual Teen and Tween Book Club: Friday, July 24 ,1-1:45 p.m.: Titles aimed at Grades 5+, 2-3 p.m.: Titles aimed at Grades 8+ Each week we talk about your favorite titles and play themed trivia and games! Registration Required. Visit westfordlibrary.org for details on how to register. If you have any questions, email Kate Rose at krrose@westfordma.gov

Where is Hodge Podge? Sat., July 25 at 10:30. Get the driver in your house to load up the car and you all can follow the clues to find out where Hodge Podge is in the town of Westford. When you find him (it is really Mr. Vinny), drive by and say hello or get out and have a socially distanced picture – whatever you are most comfortable doing. Clues will be posted on the library Facebook page and the Youth Services Department Facebook page.

Virtual Monday Mystery Book Club: Mon., July 27 at 10:30 a.m. Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We meet on the fourth Monday of the month @ 10:30 a.m. New members are always welcome. Our July 27th meeting will take place on Zoom. We'll be discussing *The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn. Email Sarah Regan at sregan@westfordma.gov for details!

Family Concert with the Rockabye Beats: Thurs., July 30 at 6:30 p.m. Come get a little crazy with the Rockabye Beats. Marcos and Shon deliver hands on learning through music, bouncing (or as much wiggling as you can do in the family car), Spanish, and all kinds of shenanigans. Pack a car snack and join us in the parking lot at the back of the library. Space is limited to the first 50 cars (that is all we have for parking spaces!!!). This concert and the technology used to listen to it in your car is generously funded by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library.

Virtual New England Legends with Jeff Belanger: Thu., July 30 at 7 p.m. Gather 'round the virtual campfire with Jeff Belanger, one of New England's premiere storytellers! New England Legends offers a tour of haunts, monsters, aliens, and weird history from our region. Based on Jeff's popular weekly podcast and his Emmy-nominated television series. This program will take place on Zoom. For details, email Sarah Regan at sregan@westfordma.gov. Be sure to check out all of the **virtual programming events** delivered by the staff of the Youth Services Department. Their weekly schedule is on our [Calendar of Events](#) on our website (westfordlibrary.org).

Children's, Teens and Tweens, and Adult Summer Reading Programs: "Imagine Your Story" is the 2020 Summer Reading Program theme. Registration for all three is ongoing.

We are using the READSquared program for Summer Reading registration and reading logging. You can download the READSquared app from your online App store, for free, to your remote device (phone or tablet) and you can also use this website: <http://westfordmareads.readsquared.com/> to register and log reading.

All of the Summer Reading Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library, Inc. and are for Westford residents and non-resident members of the Friends. Imagine Your Story is also sponsored by the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Enjoy the Library from Home or Your Favorite Vacation Spot: The Library has many free resources that are fun and educational. All you need is your Library card. If you can't find your card or need a new one, contact us at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov.

E-books – [Hoopla](#), [Overdrive](#), [Tumblebooks](#)

Audiobooks – [Hoopla](#), [Overdrive](#)

Magazines – [Overdrive](#)

Movies – [Hoopla](#), [Kanopy](#)

Music – [Freegal](#), [Hoopla](#)

Online Courses – The Great Courses on [Kanopy](#), [Lynda.com](#), [Rosetta Stone](#).



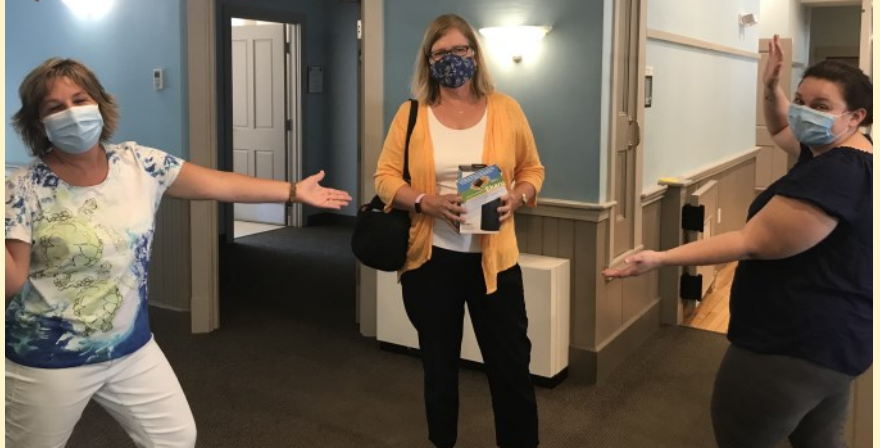
Cameron Senior Center

Things are happening, even while the building is closed!

The Center is staffed Monday thru Friday from 8AM-4PM for your needs just give us a call at 978-692-5523. We look forward to talking with you.

Ekaru of Westford Donates To The Cameron

Ann Westerheim, founder and President of Ekaru fills a need for a Boom 3 Bluetooth portable speaker for the Cameron's outside programs during Covid-19 pandemic. We appreciate Ekaru's continuous support of the Cameron.



Attention SNAP Recipients:

Eating fruits and vegetables each day is important for your health. The Healthy

Incentives Program (HIP) helps you buy more fruits and vegetables for your household. You can use your SNAP benefits to buy fruits and vegetables from a HIP authorized farm or vendor. You will receive \$1 for each dollar you spend on eligible fruits and vegetables, up to a monthly limit. You can earn HIP incentives at participating agricultural retailers. How does HIP work?

If you are a SNAP household you will be automatically enrolled in HIP.

You can use your SNAP benefits to buy fruits and vegetables from a HIP authorized farm or vendor. Look for the HIP logo or ask the vendor if they participate in the program before you pay for your purchase.

You will receive \$1 for each dollar you spend on eligible fruits and vegetables, up to a monthly limit. You can earn HIP incentives at participating: Farmers' markets, Farm stands, Mobile markets, Community supported agriculture (CSA) farm share programs.

Important: You must have a SNAP balance to earn the HIP incentive benefit.

Your monthly cap is based on your household size. 1-2 person households can receive up to \$40.00. Your receipt will show you the amount of your HIP incentive benefit after each eligible purchase. This amount will be credited back to your SNAP account. Use this extra benefit right away or save it for another shopping trip. Any questions, call Alison at 978-399-2325.

T.R.E.A.D. -Applications are available by request. Please call Alison to have one mailed to you. Applications are **DUE ON AUGUST 30th**. Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled is a donation funded program for property tax relief. Applicants must be 65 years or older OR have a state recognized disability; and must own and occupy their home. The T.R.E.A.D. Committee will meet to determine awards in December 2020. If you have any questions about the program or need application assistance, call Alison Christopher, LICSW at 978-399-2325. Please note that we will not be scheduling in-person appointments until at least August, but we can coach over the phone until then.

NEW...SNAP-Massachusetts has joined the pilot project to allow users to order food online from Amazon and Walmart. If you have a SNAP card and want to avoid shopping in stores during the Covid-19 crisis, consider this new option! Go to <https://www.mass.gov/snap-online-purchasing-program> and click on order from Amazon or order from Walmart for instructions.

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Cameron Senior Center (continued)

NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS UNDER OUR NEW TENTS IN THE CAMERON PARKING LOT



Join Carol Wing for an Outdoor Zumba Class for the month of July!

Wednesdays at 8:15am Starting July 8th

Sign up at 978-692-5523.

PING PONG TOURNAMENT

How good can you be after self-quarantine? We will see by just having fun Wednesday, July 15th 9:30am

Singles only, double elimination tournament. Refreshments, prizes and fun To register for this Singles Ping Pong Tournament please call 978-692-5523.



CAMP CRAFT TIME

Wednesday, July 22nd 9:30am

Who doesn't have fond memories of summer crafts? Let's enjoy that time together again and make a cool, colorful summer tie-dye t-shirt for you or send your grandchild a summer care package with your specially made shirt and friendship bracelet. Cost is \$ 5.00 which includes T-shirts and other supplies.

Sign up at 978-692-5523 and don't forget to give the T-shirt size to the front desk by Friday, July 17th at noon.



COME HAVE FUN IN AN ORIGINAL JIMMY BUFFET STYLE CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, July 29th 9:30am



We will have singles and/or double tournament entries. These tournaments will be double elimination so we can have fun together longer. Our Director is eyeing the coveted winner's sash, so practice up! Also, Katie has a few surprise activities up her sleeve while you wait your turn for tournament game(s). Light refreshments and fresh fruit shaved ice drinks will be available, along with a little Jimmy Buffet background music.

Don't forget your lawn chair and parrot head paraphernalia. Tournament sign up call 978-692-5523. A special thank you to **Scott Topjian** for donating our Cornhole games and making this tournament possible.

EBI'S SUMMER BBQ COOKOUT IS BACK WITH WESTFORD'S VERY OWN -

FABULOUS MUSICIAN MICKEY LORDEN

Friday, August 14 at 12:00pm

Location: Franco American Club (Inside)

You will enjoy freshly grilled BBQ chicken and/or beef accompanied with rice, grilled tomato, dessert and beverages.

A special thank you to **Ebi and Desiree Masalehdan** for this amazing spread of food.

Please RSVP to 978-692-5523 and bring your mask for safety measures.



(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center (continued)

Due to current COVID-19 precautions, Cameron programs may be changed, postponed or cancelled at any time. If changes do occur you will be notified as soon as possible by your COA staff. Thanks for your understanding!

Newsletter changes!

Beginning with our July/August newsletter, all issues of the newsletter will be issued bi-monthly. Please check our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CameronSeniorCenter and website, www.westfordma.gov/coa for updates and additions.



Some of our Veterans enjoying our Veterans Breakfast thanks to the American Legion Post 159, Village Breakfast Restaurant and Cumming's Foundation. (pictured is Dennis and Terry Kane)

Simply call the Cameron at
978-692-5523 or check our
website for updates.
www.westfordma.gov/coa

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter
please visit our website:
www.westfordma.gov/coa and
click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Health Department

MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis)

What is Eastern Equine Encephalitis?

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is a rare but serious disease caused by a virus.

How is the EEE virus spread?

The virus that causes EEE is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. In Massachusetts, the virus is most often identified in mosquitoes found in and around freshwater, hardwood swamps. More information about different types of mosquitoes that can spread the virus can be found on the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito.

How common is EEE in Massachusetts?

EEE is a very rare disease. Since the virus was first identified in Massachusetts in 1938, just over 110 cases have occurred. The majority of cases typically have been from Bristol, Plymouth, and Norfolk counties. However, in an active year human cases can occur throughout the state. Outbreaks of EEE usually occur in Massachusetts every 10-20 years. These outbreaks will typically last two to three years. The most recent outbreak of EEE in Massachusetts began in 2019 and included twelve cases with six fatalities.

What are the symptoms of EEE?

The first symptoms of EEE are fever (often 103° to 106°F), stiff neck, headache, and lack of energy. These symptoms show up three to ten days after a bite from an infected mosquito. Inflammation and swelling of the brain, called encephalitis, is the most dangerous and frequent serious complication. The disease gets worse quickly and some patients may go into a coma within a week.

What is the treatment for EEE?

There is no treatment for EEE. In Massachusetts, about half of the people identified with EEE died from the infection. People who survive this disease will often be permanently disabled. Few people recover completely.

Mosquitoes can begin to multiply in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days! Mosquito breeding sites can be anywhere. Take action to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood. Organize a neighborhood clean-up day to pick up containers from vacant lots and parks and to encourage people to keep their yards free of standing water. Mosquitoes don't care about fences, so it's important to remove areas of standing water throughout the neighborhood.

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Health Department

MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis)

What can you do to protect yourself from EEE?

Since the virus that causes EEE is spread by mosquitoes, here are some things you can do to reduce your chances of being bitten:

- Schedule outdoor events to avoid the hours between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.
- When you are outdoors, wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and socks. This may be difficult to do when the weather is hot, but it will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** (3-[N-butyl-N-acetyl]-aminopropionic acid) or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-menthane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions given on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.
- Keep mosquitoes out of your house by repairing any holes in your screens and making sure they are tightly attached to all your doors and windows.
- Remove areas of standing water around your home. Here are some suggestions:
 - ♦ Look around outside your house for containers and other things that might collect water and turn them over, regularly empty them, or dispose of them.
 - ♦ Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors so that water can drain out.
 - ♦ Clean clogged roof gutters; remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of rainwater.
 - ♦ Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
 - ♦ Change the water in birdbaths every few days; aerate ornamental ponds or stock them with fish.
 - ♦ Keep swimming pools clean and properly chlorinated; remove standing water from pool covers.
 - ♦ Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.
- More information on choosing and using repellents safely is included in the MDPH Mosquito Repellents fact sheet which can be viewed online at www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito. If you can't go online, contact the MDPH at (617) 983-6800 for a hard copy.

Where can I get more information?

- Your doctor, nurse, or health care clinic, or your local board of health (listed in the telephone directory under local government).
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Division of Epidemiology at (617) 983-6800 or on the MDPH Arbovirus website (www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito).
- **Health effects of pesticides**, MDPH, Bureau of Environmental Health at 617-624-5757.
- **Mosquito control in Westford: Central Mass Mosquito Control Project** www.cmmcp.org
- You may also contact the SRMCB within the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources at 617-626-1777 or your local board of health.

Recycling Commission

Despite the Pandemic - Return your Plastic Bags, Bottles, and continue to Donate

In 2018 we voted at Westford Town Meeting to eliminate single-use plastic bags in our town. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for safe practices, these plastic bags are once again being used by local supermarkets.

But don't forget – these plastic bags are returnable. The stores below are now accepting bags back for processing:

- Market Basket Westford at 6A Cornerstone Square, Westford
- Market Basket Littleton at 301 Constitution Ave, Littleton
- Donelan's Littleton at 236 Great Rd, Littleton
- Donelan's Acton at Gould's Plaza, 248 Great Rd, Acton

Or – ask for your groceries in paper bags, which are recyclable!

The stores listed are also now accepting soda-type bottles for return, so bring those in, too.

As for donations - Lots of us have been cleaning house, and have items to pass along. We checked in with two local non-profits that take many donations from Westford residents:

- Household Goods, Inc. (HGRM) in Acton provides a full range of donated furniture and household items, free of charge, to people in need. They accept furniture and smaller household items. HGRM is currently accepting donations but with the restrictions and requirements documented here: <https://householdgoods.org/drop-off-registration/>
- Lowell Wish is another organization that provides local people in need with basic furniture, home goods and baby goods, while helping the planet by recycling used goods. At the time of this update, the Lowell Wish Project is still working on its plan to reopen for general donations: <https://thewishproject.org/next-phase-is-coming/>

The pandemic has changed our lives in so many ways – but despite it all, please continue your good recycling habits. Return, re-use, and donate!

www.westfordma.gov/recycling



Westford Parks & Recreation

Forge Pond Beach Improvements – Phase 1 Completed!

The Forge Pond Beach site was reopened to the public on June 19, with a modernized parking area, a revitalized landscape, and a brand-new playground designed to complement both its natural setting as well as a variety of ages.

Parks & Recreation would like to thank the individuals and organizations that contributed to the planning, funding, design, and construction of the improved Forge Pond Beach Site. Visit soon.



*Taking it for a spin at Forge Pond Beach Playground.
– July 2020*

Speaking of Beaches...

Forge Pond Beach and Edwards Beach are open!

2020 Season: June 29 - August 23

Hours: Monday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Fee: Westford Residents are free, but must have proof of residency.

Nonresidents are \$5 per person, per day.

Three and under, and 65 and over are free.

Nonresidents may purchase a season pass at the beaches for \$75 for a family of five.

For more information visit About Waterfront at westfordrec.com, or call us at 978-692-5532.



Splashing in Forge Pond. – July 2020

Destination Exploration is On

Destination Exploration, Parks & Rec's eight-week summer program for ages 6-13, is running from June 29 - August 21. Located at East Boston Camps, D.E. offers a classic summertime experience with a choice of activities that include boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, paddleboarding, arts and crafts, games, and more.

The program runs from Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., full weeks, or single days.

D.E. programming and logistics are carefully designed for the safety of participants and staff.

For details, see the *Parks & Recreation Parent Handbook Summer 2020* at westfordrec.com.

For information visit Summer at Destination Exploration at westfordrec.com, or call us at 978-692-5532.



*Masked archers.
D.E. – July 2020*

*First catch
of the season,
Burge's Pond.
D.E. – July 2020*

